

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 are pending in the application. In the non-final Office Action of April 11, 2007, the Examiner rejected claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over *Sands, et al.* in view of *Kojima* and Applicant's Background Art (ABA). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection and addresses the Examiner's disposition below. Claim 1 has been amended.

Independent claim 1, as amended, claims a battery pack housing a plurality of battery cells. The battery pack comprises a case having a conductive terminal board respectively connecting positive electrodes and negative electrodes of the plurality of battery cells to outside terminals. The conductive terminal board has a structure in which a first member is joined with a second member such that the first member having excellent weldability is arrayed in a plurality-of-islands state in the second member having excellent conductivity. The islands of the first member are formed as a common structure such that adjacent islands are connected by a narrow portion that is narrower than the respective island portions.

The first member of the conductive terminal board includes a rectangular slit in at least one island portion of the first member. (*See, e.g.*, slits in islands of first member 11 in Figures 2 and 3). As discussed in Applicant's specification, the first terminal board being arrayed in a plurality-of-islands state in the second terminal board allows the conductive terminal board to thinner than conventional conductive terminal boards. (Specification page 6, lines 17-24).

Referring to Figure 3c as an illustrative example, the second member 12 has a structure in which a projecting portion 12b for connecting a control circuit substrate is provided on one short side of a plate portion 12a having an oblong card shape that is larger than the first member 11 in outer shape thereof. The first member 11 is joined with the plate portion 12a of the second member 12. The combined thickness of the first member 11 joined with the second member 12 is approximately uniform. (*See, e.g.*, specification page 12, lines 13-25).

This is unlike *Sands* in view of *Kojima* and Applicants' Background Art, which fails to disclose or suggest a first member having a plurality of islands that are formed as a common structure such that adjacent islands are connected by a narrow portion that is narrower than the respective island portions. Referring to *Sands* Figure 3, *Sands* teaches a plurality of clips 37 that are separated from each other by a distance. This is also shown in *Sands* Figure 4 (see clips 52).

Unlike Applicants' claimed first member that has a plurality of connected islands formed as a common structure, *Sands* discloses a plurality of disconnected clips that are not formed as a common structure. Further, nowhere does *Sands* suggest forming its clips as a common structure. Thus, *Sands* fails to disclose or suggest Applicants' claimed first member.

Kojima and Applicants' Background Art also fails to disclose or suggest a first member having a plurality of connected islands formed as a common structure. Therefore, *Sands* in view of *Kojima* and Applicants' Background Art still fails to disclose or suggest claim 1.

Claims 2-4 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1 and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons that claim 1 is allowable.

Applicant respectfully submits the rejection has been overcome and requests that it be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that claims 1-4 are patentable. It is therefore submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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